



SIERRA CLUB
Mojave Group/San Gorgonio Chapter

March 28, 2008

RE: Black and Veatch Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative Phase 1A, 14 March 2008

The Mojave Group represents over 600 Sierra Club members living in the Mojave Desert area. We have long been concerned about the need to protect the diminishing natural resources of the Desert.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 256-page draft Phase 1A document. We have not had adequate time to fully absorb and comment on this important document. These are our preliminary comments. We hope that other steps in the process are given more adequate time to allow for best consideration and decision-making.

We believe that environmental concerns are not being given adequate treatment both in the Phase 1A document and in the underlying process. There is limited recognition in the Black and Veatch report to the significance of environmental concerns. Any ranking of “renewable energy zones” must consider environmental factors on an equal basis with any other factors including economics.

We believe that the environmental constraint layers map developed by the Center for Biological Diversity should be used in screening for appropriate sites for the generation and transmission of renewable energy. Recognition of this screening tool should be included in Phase 1A to avoid future confusion regarding the necessity to give environmental concerns equal treatment to other factors.

The RETI process does not provide for adequate input from local groups including energy consumers, desert property owners, desert protection activists, and others.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Submitted by:

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Sierra Club

....To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness.